

June 27, 2003

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY ALERT Number 15

Informing you about news, events, data releases, congressional actions, and other developments associated with the American Community Survey (ACS).

NEWS IN THIS ALERT:

* ACS Formally Launched Federal Agency Information Program

ACS FORMALLY LAUNCHED FEDERAL AGENCY INFORMATION PROGRAM

The U.S. Census Bureau launched the American Community Survey Federal Agency Information Program yesterday with a kick-off meeting at the Department of Commerce in Washington, D.C. Over 50 people representing 20 federal agencies attended the meeting, which included presentations on "The Opportunities and Challenges of the ACS: Three Views from Federal Agencies." The presenters were:

Frederick J. Eggers, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD);

Marilyn McMillen Seastrom, Chief Statistician, National Center for Education Statistics; and

Stephen A. Meskin, Chief Actuary, Department of Veterans Affairs.

Included in the remarks was Frederick Eggers's recommendation that federal agencies "envision annual data" and what it will mean for them and their clients, and to "think positively." He added that financial and programmatic adjustments need to be considered and that "your clients must be prepared to deal with the challenge of new data." He also noted that, for HUD programs, the advantages of timely information outweighed the costs of making the transition.

The ACS Federal Agency Information Program represents an eight-year process that began in 1995 when the Census Bureau held the first of three colloquia with federal agencies to discuss the implications of moving the decennial long form data collection to the ACS. This long-range agency information program is designed to foster solid working relationships between the Census Bureau and each agency as the Census Bureau continues its plan to fully implement the ACS and reengineer the 2010 Census.

The Census Bureau has identified a group of subject matter and technical experts from among the staff to work directly with their counterparts in each federal agency, providing support and technical assistance. Today's kick-off meeting is one of several critical steps in helping federal agencies achieve a smooth transition to using the ACS.

[Click here](#) to see a photo of Director Kincannon and speakers at the Federal Agency Information Program.

Census Bureau Director Charles Louis Kincannon and guest speakers prepare to address "The Opportunities and Challenges of the ACS: Three Views from Federal Agencies" at the Department of Commerce on June 26, 2003. From the left are: Frederick J. Eggers (formerly with the Department of Housing and Urban Development), Stephen A. Meskin (Department of Veterans Affairs), Marilyn McMillen Seastrom (Department of Education), and Charles Louis Kincannon (Census Bureau Director). Photo by Paul Corbit Brown.

For more information about the ACS Federal Agency Information Program, contact Nancy Torrieri at nancy.k.torrieri@census.gov or 301-763-3602.
